

<sup>1</sup>  
a lead plate connected to said electrode assembly and said external case at said projection.

<sup>3</sup> ~~18~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~<sup>2</sup>, wherein said external case has a cylindrical shape, and said projection is located at the center of the bottom of said external case.

<sup>4</sup> ~~18~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~17~~<sup>3</sup>, wherein said electrode assembly comprises a spiral electrode assembly.

<sup>5</sup> ~~19~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~17~~<sup>3</sup>, wherein a cross-sectional shape of said electrode assembly is elliptical.

<sup>6</sup> ~~20~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~19~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein said electrode assembly comprises a spiral electrode assembly.

<sup>7</sup> ~~21~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~<sup>2</sup>, wherein a cross-sectional shape of said external case is circular.

<sup>8</sup> ~~22~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~<sup>2</sup>, wherein said projection is located on a side-wall of said external case.

<sup>9</sup> ~~23~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~<sup>2</sup>, wherein the cross-sectional shape of said external case is rectangular.

<sup>10</sup> ~~24~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~23~~<sup>9</sup>;  
wherein said electrode assembly comprises a positive electrode plate, a negative electrode plate, and a separator; and

wherein said positive electrode plate is separated from said negative electrode plate by said separator.

11  
~~25~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~24~~<sup>10</sup>;  
wherein said electrode assembly comprises a plurality of stacked electrode units;  
wherein each electrode unit in said plurality of stacked electrode units is separated from  
adjacent electrode units by a separator;  
wherein each electrode unit comprises a positive electrode plate, a negative electrode plate,  
and a separator; and  
wherein said positive electrode plate is separated from said negative electrode plate by said  
separator.

12  
~~26~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~<sup>12</sup>, wherein a cross-sectional shape of said external  
case is elliptical.

13  
~~27~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~<sup>12</sup>, wherein said projection is curved.

14  
~~28~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~<sup>12</sup>, wherein said projection has a conical shape.

15  
~~29~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~16~~<sup>12</sup>, wherein said lead plate comprises a flexible  
portion.

16  
~~30~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~29~~<sup>15</sup>, wherein said flexible portion is capable of flexing  
towards said projection.

17  
~~31~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~29~~<sup>15</sup>, wherein:  
a cross-sectional shape of said external case is circular;  
wherein said lead plate is disk shaped and the area of said lead plate is smaller than the cross-  
sectional area of the inside of said external case; and  
wherein said flexible portion is disposed at a center of said lead plate.

18  
~~32~~ (New) A battery as recited in claim ~~31~~<sup>17</sup>, wherein:  
said lead plate further comprises holes;  
wherein each hole has projection formed on its periphery; and

wherein said projections are connected to the electrode assembly.

18  
19  
33. (New) A battery as recited in claim 29, wherein said lead plate is welded to said external case at said flexible portion.

20  
2  
34. (New) A battery as recited in claim 16, further comprising an anti-corrosive coating, wherein said anti-corrosive coating is disposed on an outside surface of said external case.

21  
20  
35. (New) A battery as recited in claim 34, wherein said anti-corrosive coating is conductive.

---